
Rombo Mountain Fire News Release

Northern Rockies
Incident Management
Team
Larry Svalberg
Incident Commander

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Fire Information
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Date: August 4, 2007 8 p.m.

Rombo Mountain Fire Update

West Fork, Mont. – The Rombo Mountain Fire increased in size to 830 acres Saturday. The fire is located on Rombo Mountain 16 miles south of Connor, Mont., and 4 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Lake on the West Fork Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest. The fire started on Tuesday, July 31, by lightning and is currently burning in an easterly direction following the general topography of the area at the headwaters of Boulder Creek.

Larry Svalberg's Incident Command Team is responsible for managing the fire in coordination with local Forest personnel. Sixty-five firefighting personnel are currently assigned to the fire. A 20-person firefighting crew built line on the west side of the fire today. Water was dropped from buckets via helicopters on the hottest spots of the fire until the helicopters were diverted to initial attack on other fires on the Forest. Additional firefighting crews and helicopters to provide support have been ordered; however, there is a shortage of resources nationally due to the many fires occurring. Extreme burning conditions, steep and rugged terrain, snags and the safety of firefighters are all concerns that limit opportunities for suppression activities.

The Ravalli County Sheriff's office has issued a Stage 1 precautionary evacuation notice for fire protection zone 13, from the Rombo Campground north to Forest Service Road Number 5715. This is a precautionary step; however, because conditions can change quickly, residents should plan and prepare for an evacuation should the need to evacuate arise. Ravalli County Sheriff's deputies and volunteer firefighters from the Painted Rocks and West Fork Volunteer Fire Departments will be making house-to-house visits to notify and talk to residents.

Local volunteer fire departments worked with the Forest Service to install structure protection measures such as pumps and hoses around residences in fire protection zone 13.

More than 50 people attended a public meeting held at the Little Boulder Bay Boat Launch on Painted Rocks Reservoir Friday, August 3. District Ranger Dave Campbell introduced Incident Commander Svalberg, who provided an update about the fire and the Forest's plan for its management. Representatives from rural volunteer fire departments and the Ravalli County Commission were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

A closure order prohibiting public access on national forest roads or lands in the area of the fire has been in place since July 31. Maps and full descriptions of the closed area are available at Forest offices, and on line at www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot. Personnel are posted at the closure points to enforce the closures.

For additional information call Rombo Mountain Fire information at 821-1242 or visit the website, www.inciweb.org.

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